

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NICHOLAS JAMES
KUNELS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas James Kunels. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nicholas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas James Kunels for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING RYAN LAFFERTY
FOR HIS RECOGNITION AS A
MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Ryan Lafferty, a teacher in the Bellevue School District who has been recognized as a winner of the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

The Milken Educator Awards are bestowed upon educators by the Milken Family Foundation to celebrate, elevate, and activate excellence in the teaching profession. The award is given to teachers who exhibit exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and educational accomplishments beyond the classroom.

Mr. Lafferty has been a teacher at the International School in Bellevue for six years and is highly praised for his interdisciplinary project-based teaching style, which incorporates seemingly unrelated subjects like math, history, and the arts. He has developed a problem-based curriculum for Advanced Placement Physics where students build Roman arches, projectile instruments such as slingshots and catapults, and a single-string instrument called a Diddley bow. Mr. Lafferty's classes are in high demand due to his track record of implementing creative lesson plans and for his infectious positive attitude.

Mr. Lafferty is also beloved for the positive influence that he provides for his students. He

makes himself available to students outside of class time if they need academic help, or if they need to talk for any other reason. He prioritizes the success of his students by regularly hosting meetings with students to determine what works in his class, and what can be improved. It is for these reasons that Mr. Lafferty is considered a role model by many of his students.

Mr. Lafferty, who grew up in Redmond, graduated from the University of Washington in 2008 and received a Master's Degree in Teaching from Seattle University in 2010. He has worked with the Bellevue School District, the University of Washington and the George Lucas Educational Foundation to further develop his AP Physics curriculum in hopes of the program being implemented nationally. Lafferty is a National Honors Society advisor who serves on the school's middle and high school science clubs and travels to the state science bowl.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate teacher Ryan Lafferty for being honored with the Milken Educator Award. It is my great pleasure to recognize his dedication and service to his students and to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 102, 103, and 104, I was in Texas on District Business.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

HONORING MATTHEW BAYS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Bays. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew led his troop as an Assistant Patrol Leader. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew constructed a life jacket loaner board for the Smithville Lake swim beach, providing life jackets for those who may not have their own.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Bays for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on March 2, 2016, I was detained in my district and missed the one roll call vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 105—H.R. 3716—Ensuring Access to Quality Medicaid Providers Act.

HONORING RARE DISEASE WEEK

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to rare diseases as we recognize "Rare Disease Week."

A "rare disease," also referred to as an orphan disease, is any disease that affects a small percentage of the population. The National Institute of Health defines a rare disease as one that affects less than 200,000 people in the United States. The impact of rare diseases is certainly not small; there are over 7,000 rare diseases that affect 30 million people, or 10% of the United States population.

As the father of someone who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, a rare disease affecting only 30,000 people in the United States, I know the difficulty of living with a rare disease and the financial burdens of care and treatment for families. Cystic Fibrosis requires specialized care that can cost upwards of \$15,000 a year and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of a lifetime. I have done everything I can to make sure that my daughter receives the highest quality care as she continues her fight against Cystic Fibrosis.

Thanks to advancements in medicine, the average life expectancy of someone who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis is now 37. This is much different than 50 years ago when a child diagnosed with the disease would be lucky to live to their teens.

Every year we recognize rare disease week as a way to raise awareness and to stress the importance of funding rare disease research. It is my hope one day we can make rare, incurable diseases a thing of the past.

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